CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An automatic method for providing locales on a computer system comprising the following steps:

   a. establishing a set of services, said set of services specifying services required for said locale;

   b. storing with each of said set of services an attribute for identifying characteristics of said each of said set of services, said attribute including:

      i. a name which identifies a type of service;

      ii. a value which uniquely identifies said each services among other services having said name;

   c. defining a first locale which specifies a first set of attributes of a first set of said services; and

   d. loading said first locale by retrieving said first set of services by said first set of attributes.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said establishing of said first set of services includes building a structure which references each of said first set of services.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a

2   reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said

3   structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said services include text services.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein said services include input services.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein said services include formatting services.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein said services include presentation services.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein said defining of said first locale includes

2   storing a locale file on a non-volatile medium coupled to said computer

3   system.

1   9.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of generating a locale

2   database from said first locale file.

1   10.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of scanning said database

2   in order to create a reference to certain of said services in order to retrieve

3   said first set of services.

1   11.   An automatic method for providing services on a computer system

2   comprising the following steps:

3   a.   establishing a set of services providing different functionality for said

4   computer system;

5   b.   storing with each of said set of services an attribute for identifying

6   characteristics of the function of each of said set of services; and

7   c.   retrieving said first set of services by said first set of attributes

8   irrepective of any locales.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein said establishing of said first set of services

2   includes building a structure which references each of said first set of

3   services.

1   13.   The method of claim 12 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a

2   reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said

3   structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.

1   14.   The method of claim 11 wherein said services include text services.

1   15.   The method of claim 11 wherein said services include input services.

1   16.   The method of claim 11 wherein said services include formatting services.

1   17.   The method of claim 11 wherein said services include presentation services.

1   18.   The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of scanning said

2   database in order to create a reference to certain of said services in order to

3   retrieve said first set of services.

1   19.   An apparatus for providing services on a computer system comprising:

2   a.   first means for establishing a set of services providing different

3   functionality for said computer system;

4   b.   second means for storing with each of said set of services an attribute

5   for identifying characteristics of the function of each of said set of

6   services; and

7   c.   third means for retrieving said first set of services by said first set of

8   attributes irrepective of any locales.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said establishing of said first set of

2   services includes building a structure which references each of said first set

3   of services.

1   21.   The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a

2   reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said

3   structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.

1   22.   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include text services.

1   23.   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include input services.

1   24.   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include formatting services.

1   25.   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include presentation
2   services.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said means for retrieving includes a
2   means for scanning said database in order to create a reference to certain of
3   said services in order to retrieve said first set of services.